

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Parts 0, 1, and 80)	MD Docket No. 23-156
of the Commission's Rules)	

ORDER

Adopted: May 17, 2023**Released: May 18, 2023**

By the Commission:

1. In this Order, we reduce expenditures by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) and modernize Commission procedures by amending section 1.1102 of our rules,¹ which sets forth the fees for applications and other filings processed by the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB). The rule amendment reflects the closure of the P. O. Box 979097 (*i.e.*, lockbox)² used for manual payment of filing fees for three different broad categories of filings.³ We discontinue the option of manual fee payments and instead require the use of an electronic payment for each listing in this rule, and make conforming changes to other related provisions.⁴

2. Section 1.1102 of the Commission's rules provides a schedule of fees for applications and other filings processed by WTB.⁵ The rule also directs filers that do not utilize the Commission's on-line filing and fee payment systems to send manual filings and/or payments to the Commission at P.O. Box 979097 at U.S. Bank in St. Louis, Missouri.⁶ In recent years, there have been a decreasing number of lockbox payments, and, although paper filings are contemplated by the rule, WTB now requires electronic filing of all wireless radio service applications and pleadings.⁷ As a result, transition to all electronic payments is consistent with Commission-wide efforts to digitize our systems and create efficient and more accessible interactions with the agency.

3. Since 2015, the Commission has reduced its reliance on lockboxes, instead encouraging the use of electronic payment systems for application and regulatory fees and closing certain lockboxes.⁸

¹ 47 CFR § 1.1102.

² Our rules and other Commission documents refer to a series of P.O. Boxes used for the collection of fees as "lockboxes." These P.O. Boxes are located at U.S. Bank in St. Louis, Missouri. Once a payment is received, it is processed and recorded by the bank.

³ These categories of filings are: (1) Site-based license applications; (2) Personal license applications; and (3) Geographic-based license applications.

⁴ See n.11, *infra*.

⁵ 47 CFR § 1.1102.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services*, WT Docket No. 19-212, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 10781 (2020)(*E-licensing R&O*).

⁸ The Commission revised its payment rules to encourage electronic payment of application processing fees and require electronic payment of regulatory fees. 47 CFR §§ 1.1112 (application fees) and 1.1158 (regulatory fees). These rules became effective November 30, 2015. 80 FR 66816 (Oct. 30, 2015); See *e.g.*, *Amendment of Part 1 of* (continued....)

We find that electronic payment of fees for the services processed by WTB reduces the agency's expenditures (including eliminating the annual fee for the bank's services) and the cost of manually processing each transaction, with little or no inconvenience to the Commission's regulatees, applicants, and the public.⁹ As part of this effort, we are now closing P.O. Box 979097 and modifying the relevant rule provisions that permit manual filings and require payment of fees via the closed P.O. Box. Specifically, sections 0.482, 1.1102, and 1.2107 are being modified to eliminate references to the lockbox at U.S. Bank.¹⁰ In addition, section 1.907 is being modified to eliminate references to applications submitted on paper, and the caption to section 1.913 is being adjusted to eliminate a reference to manual filing.¹¹

4. In addition, we make minor modifications to our rules to reflect the replacement of the Commission's prior payment interface, Fee Filer, with a module contained within the Commission's Registration System (CORES).¹² We make these changes without notice and comment because they are rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice exempt from the general notice-and-comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).¹³

5. *Implementation of Lockbox Closure.* As a temporary transition measure, for 90 days after publication of this order in the Federal Register, U.S. Bank will continue to process payments to P.O. Box 979097. After that date, payments for these WTB services must be made in accordance with the procedures set forth on the Commission's website, <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless-fees>. For now, such payments will be made upon log-in at <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/userLogin.do>. Users will then access the link Manage Existing FRNs, and subsequently FRN Financials.¹⁴ As we assess and implement U.S. Treasury initiatives toward an all-electronic payment system, we may transition to other secure payment systems with appropriate public notice and guidance.

6. *Regulatory Flexibility Act, Paperwork Reduction Act, and Congressional Review Act.* Section 603 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended, requires a regulatory flexibility analysis in

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the Commission's Rules, Order, MD Docket No. 19-40, 2019 WL 937041 (F.C.C.), 84 FR 8617 (2019) (providing the history of the ongoing transition to electronic payments at the FCC). The Commission has previously taken action to close the lockbox utilized by the Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau, the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Enforcement Bureau, the Office of Engineering and Technology, the International Bureau, the Media Bureau, and the boxes used to collect forfeiture penalties and to collect payment of charges for certain international telecommunications services. *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 17-123, 32 FCC Rcd 4203 (2017) (PS&HSB); *Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 51, and 61 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 17-357, 32 FCC Rcd 10565 (2017) (WCB); *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 19-40, 34 FCC Rcd 1506 (2019) (EB); *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 20-64, 35 FCC Rcd 2094 (2020) (IB); *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 20-64, 2020 WL 7334155 (F.C.C.) (2020) (MB); *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 20-58, 35 FCC Rcd 1652 (2020) (forfeiture penalties); and *Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules*, Order, MD Docket No. 19-333, 34 FCC Rcd 11002 (2019) (ITS).

⁹ See Treasury Financial Manual, Bulletin No. 2022-01, "Agency No-Cash or No-Check Policies," released on December 7, 2021 (explaining the circumstances under which agencies may decide not to accept payments made in cash or by check), available at <https://tfm.fiscal.treasury.gov/content/tfm/v1/bull/22-01.html>; see also <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-16/pdf/2011-15181.pdf>.

¹⁰ 47 CFR §§ 0.482, 1.1102, and 1.2107.

¹¹ 47 CFR §§ 1.907 and 1.913.

¹² 47 CFR § 1.1109; 47 CFR § 1.1111.

¹³ 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(A).

¹⁴ Batch filers will use ULS Pay fees to make electronic payments. In the event an applicant is unable to make an electronic payment, the Commission's existing waiver standard in 47 CFR § 1.925(b)(3) remains the appropriate vehicle to seek relief from the electronic payment requirement. *E-licensing R&O*, 35 FCC Rcd at 10785, para. 12.

notice and comment rulemaking proceedings.¹⁵ As we are adopting these rules without notice and comment, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required. This document does not contain any new proposed information collection(s) subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.¹⁶ In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified “information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees,” pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002.¹⁷ The Commission will not send a copy of this Order pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, see 5 U.S.C. § 801(a)(1)(A), because the adopted rules are rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not “substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.”¹⁸

7. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, that pursuant to Sections 4(i), 4(j), 158, 208, and 224 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 158, 208, and 224, this ORDER is hereby ADOPTED and the rules set forth in the Appendix are hereby AMENDED effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary

¹⁵ 5 U.S.C. § 603(a).

¹⁶ 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520.

¹⁷ See 44 U.S.C. § 3506(c)(4).

¹⁸ 5 U.S.C. § 804(3)(C) (rules subject to the Congressional Review Act do not include “any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties”).

APPENDIX
Final Rules

Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, is amended as follows:

PART 0 – COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

1. The authority citation for Part 0 continues to read as follows:

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 155, 225, and 409, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend § 0.482 by revising the first sentence to read as follows:

§ 0.482 Application for waiver of wireless radio service rules.

All requests for waiver of the rules (see § 1.925 of this chapter) governing the Wireless Radio Services (see § 1.907 of this chapter) that require a fee (see § 1.1102 of this chapter) shall be submitted via the Universal Licensing System.

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PART 1 — PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

3. The authority citation for part 1 remains as follows:

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. chs. 2, 5, 9, 13; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, unless otherwise noted.

4. Amend § 1.907 to read as follows:

§ 1.907 Definitions.

* * *

Receipt date. The date an electronic application is received at the appropriate location at the Commission.

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5. Amend the title of § 1.913 to read as follows:

§ 1.913 Application and notification forms; electronic filing.

* * * * *

6. Amend § 1.1102 by revising the final sentence of paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1.1102 Schedule of charges for applications and other filings in the wireless telecommunications services.

(a) * * * Manual filings and/or payments for these services are no longer accepted.

* * * * *

7. Amend § 1.1109 by revising the first paragraph to read as follows:

§ 1.1109 Schedule of charges for applications and other filings for the Homeland services.

Payments should be made electronically using the Commission's electronic filing and payment system in accordance with the procedures set forth on the Commission's website, www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees. Manual filings and/or payments for these services are no longer accepted.

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8. Amend § 1.1111 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 1.1111 Payment of charges.

(a) * * *

(b) Applicants may access the Commission's on-line filing systems at <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/online-filing>, and the Commission's fee payment module through the FRN access page of the Commission's Registration System at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/paymentFrnLogin.do>. Applicants who use the on-line processes will be directed to the appropriate electronic application and payment forms for completion and submission of the required application(s) and payment information.

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9. Amend § 1.2107 by revising the first sentence of paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 1.2107 Submission of down payment and filing of long-form applications.

(a) * * *

(b) Unless otherwise specified by public notice, within ten (10) business days after being notified that it is a high bidder on a particular license(s), a high bidder must electronically submit to the Commission such additional funds (the "down payment") as are necessary to bring its total deposits (not including upfront payments applied to satisfy bid withdrawal or default payments) up to twenty (20) percent of its high bid(s). * * *

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10. The authority citation for part 80 remains as follows:

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 151-155, 301-609; 3 U.S.T. 3450, 3 U.S.T. 4726, 12 U.S.T. 2377.

11. Amend § 80.59 by revising the first sentence of (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 80.59 Compulsory ship inspections.

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(2) Feeable applications for exemption must be filed electronically using the Commission's Universal Licensing System. * * *

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